

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SY-05 USSS-00 EUR-12 AID-05 /085 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:GDKULICK:SEH

APPROVED BY AF/E:WBCOOTE

IO/UNP:MR.HAGER

----- 085298

R 032228Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 209447

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINT ET

SUBJECT: RUMORED THREAT TO ROYAL FAMILY

REF: USUN 3936

1. ZEWDE GABRE-SELASSIE, NOW RESIDENT SCHOLAR AT  
SMITHSONIAN/WOODROW WILSON CENTER, CALLED ETHIOPIAN DESKOFF  
TO REPORT THAT HE HAD RECEIVED ANONYMOUS LETTER  
FROM FRANKFURT WARNING THAT THE DIRG INTENDED TO EXECUTE  
HAILE SELASSIE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY  
"INCLUDING INFANTS UNDER THE AGE OF TWO". THE LETTER STATED  
THAT EXECUTION WOULD BE CARRIED OUT EITHER ON SEPTEMBER 2 OR  
SEPTEMBER 12, PRESUMABLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE EMPEROR'S OVERTHROW. ZEWDE IMPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT  
EMPEROR'S DEATH FOUR DAYS AFTER LETTER WAS WRITTEN WAS NO  
COINCIDENCE. SIMILAR LETTER WAS RECENTLY RECEIVED BY  
FORMER US AMBASSADOR TO ETHIOPIA, JOSEPH SIMONSON, AND WAS  
NO DOUBT SENT TO OTHERS.

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2. DESKOFF TOLD ZEWDE THAT USG HAD NO INFORMATION TO CORROBORATE THIS REPORT BUT THAT LETTER WOULD BE BROUGHT TO OUR EMBASSY'S ATTENTION. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY BEING ALERT TO SIMILAR REPORTS IN ADDIS. SHOULD REPORT APPEAR TO HAVE ANY SUBSTANCE, EMBASSY SHOULD AT ITS DISCRE-TION MAKE KNOWN TO

PMAC AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL THAT SUCH ACT COULD HAVE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR US/ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS, IN VIEW OF RE-PEATED ASSURANCES THAT NO FURTHER EXECUTIONS WOULD BE CARRIED OUT WITHOUT FULL AND FAIR TRIALS. ROBINSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** THREATS, DEATHS, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 SEP 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** woolflhd  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE209447  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** GDKULICK:SEH  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750305-0548  
**From:** STATE  
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**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750987/aaaacyya.tel  
**Line Count:** 72  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 USUN NEW YORK 3936  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** woolflhd  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 JUN 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <18 DEC 2003 by woolflhd>  
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**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RUMORED THREAT TO ROYAL FAMILY  
**TAGS:** PINT, ET, (GABRE SALASSIE, ZEWDE)  
**To:** ADDIS ABABA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006